

SONYJP 3.3-033
Application No. 09/284,698

The Examiner has contended that the inventions of Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. More particularly, the Examiner has contended that the special technical features in Group I are mutually exclusive with respect to the special technical features of Group II.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant hereby elects the invention of Group I, claims 1-6, for further prosecution in this application. Accordingly, claims 7-10 stand withdrawn from further consideration in the present application, without prejudice to applicant's right to file a divisional application directed thereto.

No fee is believed necessary for this response. However, if the Examiner believes a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

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